(a) the population of (1) caste Hindus, (2) non-caste Hindus, (3) Christians, (4) Muhammadans and (5) Jews in the State, according to the latest information available;

(b) the percentage of literacy among the above classes of people;

(c) the number of appointments, drawing a salary (1) of Rs. 50 and above, (2) of rupees below 50 held by those belonging to the above five groups in the first month of the current year;

(d) the total amount of salary and allowance drawn by the members of each of the above five groups (the Diwan also being included in the particular group to which he belongs) for the last quarter of the year 1101;

(e) the number of people newly entertained in Government service in the last five years on a salary of Rs. 25 and above, and of these, how many are (i) caste Hindus, (ii) non-caste Hindus, (iii) Christians, (iv) Muhammadans and (v) Jews?

**Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.**—(a) and (b). A reference is invited to *the Cochin Census Report, 1921.*

(c), (d) & (e). The collection of the information as required will involve much time and labour which the Government are unable to spare.

## The fine levied for safe-custody of documents.

284. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the fact that for every 15 days or a portion thereof a fine of annas eight is levied in the Registration Offices for safe-custody of documents, and that it is increased to rupee one from the 17th day till the 30th day, and so on?

**Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.**—Yes. According to Registration Rule 23 and Departmental Orders 251 to 253, such fines are levied, subject to a maximum of Rs. 5. The Superintendent of Registration may, in his discretion, remit the fines, when it appears to him that the exaction thereof would be productive of injustice or hardship.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—The fine is levied for the safe custody for 15 days. Then, how is it that, on the 18th day, they receive Re. 1; for 15 days they receive nothing? On the 16th day, they receive as. 8, and on the 18th day Re. 1.

**President.**—If it comes within the first 15 days, no fine is levied.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—This fine is only for a day, but the second 8 as. is for another 15 days. The first 8 as. is for one day and not for 15 days. Where is the justification for this?

**President.**—Of course, you are entitled to take back the document on a particular day. During the next 15 days from

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the date on which the document was ready, if you do not take back the document, you will have to pay a fine of 8 as. The duration of the first fine will be for 15 days.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Here the fine on the 16th day is 8 as., and on the 17th it is one rupee.

**President.**—The first fine will continue for a period of 15 days, and on the 18th day he is to pay Re. 1. Is the fine for each day? Let me know what the practice is.

**Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.**—A period of 15 days is allowed to a party to take back a document from the Registry Office. But on the 16th day he will have to pay 8 as; and on the 17th he pays Re. 1.

**President.**—Only on one day you have to pay 8 as: for the first 15 days you have to pay nothing; for the 16th day you have to pay 8 as: and after that one day, from the 17th day till the 30th day, you have to pay Re. 1. Now, the question is how are we justified in levying this 8 as. for one day; but what should we levy for that one day?

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—A period of 15 days is allowed to a party to take back the document. If he turns up on the 16th, then, he is to pay a fine of 8 as. If even on the 16th the party does not turn up, he will have to pay a fine of Re. 1, even though he turns up on the 17th day. But he is to pay this fine, even if he turns up only on the 30th. This is the rule.

**President.**—Is there any ambiguity in the answer? Is not the answer according to the rule?

**Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.**—It is according to the rule. There is also some provision for a refund.

**President.**—So the party is not liable for a fine for 15 days?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—The first 15 days is the period deemed to be ready for delivery.

**President.**—For 15 days he is not liable for any fine. After the document is ready, he will not be liable for fine for 15 days. The amount of fine is fixed for 15 days after the date on which the document is ready.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—He will not be liable to pay any fine, if he goes on the 15th day, and on the 16th day he is to pay a fine of 8 annas, and on the 17th he should pay a fine of Re. 1; from the 17th he is entitled to 15 days more, and he is to pay only a fine of one rupee.

**President.**—In the rule it is put that the party is not liable to any fine, after the document is ready for delivery.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—If the document is not ready on the date of registration, he will be entitled to get more than 15 days from the date of registration.

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**President.**—So it is to be presumed from the rule that the document is ready for delivery on the date of registration.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—The fine comes into operation only after 15 days.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Sir, there are other important questions, if we go on in this way, we may not get a chance to put some supplementary questions.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I submit that, in answering supplementary questions, if the answer is not ready, no further consideration of the question should be done then. It should be done afterwards. If the President feels inclined to supply answer to any important question, he is at liberty to do so.

**President.**—Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar has put in a supplementary question, and we are giving an answer.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Our valuable question time is lost. Yesterday, motor buses took more than 20 minutes, and my question was not reached. I had several supplementary questions prepared ready.

**President.**—So I think I must pass on to the next question.

## The personnel of the Huzur staff.

285. **Mr. C. A. Ouseph.**—Will the Government be pleased to place statements on the table showing the personnel of the Huzur staff with the official designation and salary of each officer as on

(a) the last day on which Mr. Bhore was Diwan ;

(b) the last day on which Sir (then Mr.) Vijayaraghavacharya was Diwan ;

(c) the last day on which Mr. P. Nārayana Menon was Diwan ?

**Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.**—(a), (b) & (c). The statements containing the information are placed on the table. (*Vide Appendix III.*)

**Mr. C. A. Ouseph.**—May I know, Sir, whether Appendix III gives the names of officers who were working in the Huzur Secretariat?

**Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.**—It is only the names of the permanent hands.

**Mr. C. A. Ouseph.**—So this is not a correct list ?

**Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.**—This is the correct list, according to the establishment list.

**Mr. C. A. Ouseph.**—There is a great preponderance of Brahmins in the list.

**Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.**—That is clear from the Appendix itself.

**President.**—The self-evident matter will be noticed.

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